

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

SS-15 NSC-05 /062 W
----- 116539

R 201620Z JUN 75
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2376
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

CONFIDENTIAL USNATO 3364

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR NATO TU
SUBJECT: LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF TURKISH ACTION AGAINST US USE OF
NATO INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDED FACILITIES IN TURKEY

SUMMARY. PRESS REPORTS OF RECENT ACTION BY TURKISH NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SUGGEST POSSIBILITY THAT TURKS MAY TERMINATE US USE OF NATO FUNDED FACILITIES IN TURKEY. IF THIS OCCURS, WE BELIEVE A SERIOUS LEGAL QUESTION WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE DPC ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL RULE THAT HOST COUNTRIES ARE NOT FREE TO ACCEPT SOME USERS AND REJECT OTHERS AS LONG AS THEY ACCEPT COMMON FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION. WE SHOULD HAVE A CONTINGENCY POSITION ON THIS. REQUEST GUIDANCE.
END SUMMARY.

1. AT LEAST ONE PRESS REPORT (AP FROM ANKARA) SAYS THAT THE TURKISH NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL PROPOSAL QUOTE INCLUDE A GRADUAL SHUTDOWN OF SOME 20 US MILITARY BASES SCATTERED THROUGHOUT TURKEY. AMONG THESE, THREE INTELLIGENCE GATHERING BASES IN SOUTHEAST, NORTH AND WEST TURKEY, AND ONE STRATEGIC AIR BASE AT INCIRLIK IN THE SOUTHEAST, ARE CONSIDERED THE MOST CONFIDENTIAL

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VITAL FOR WASHINGTON UNQUOTE. WE NOTE THAT THE SHUTDOWN OF SOME 20 US BASES WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE A LARGE NUMBER OF NATO-FUNDED FACILITIES; INCIRLIK IS ONE SUCH FACILITY, AND IT HAS BEEN PROGRAMMED IN SLICE XXVI TO RECEIVE NATO FUNDED AIRCRAFT SHELTERS.

2. AS A GENERAL RULE, THE USE OF NATO FACILITIES BY THE FORCES OF COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE HOST COUNTRY IS BASED ON BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN EACH USER AND THE HOST. THIS WOULD SUGGEST THAT BY SIMPLY FAILING TO ACCEPT SUCH A BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT OR BY REFUSING TO CONTINUE IT, A HOST COULD EFFECTIVELY EXCLUDE ANY USER FROM A NATO FACILITY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE VERY STRONG ASSUMPTION UNDERLYING THE JOINT FUNDING OF NATO FACILITIES IS THAT THEY ARE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY ANY PARTICIPATING NATION WHEN SUCH USE IS IN CONSONANCE WITH THE PLANS OF MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS. WE BELIEVE THEREFORE THAT THE EXCLUSION OF US FORCES FROM NATO FUNDED FACILITIES IN TURKEY WOULD INEVITABLY PUT A SERIOUS LEGAL QUESTION BEFORE THE DPC.

WE SUGGEST THAT WASHINGTON CONSIDER THIS POTENTIAL PROBLEM AND DEVELOP A POSITION FOR OUR USE IN WHATEVER NATO FORUM IT MAY ARISE.

ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.

STREATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUN 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO03364
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750698/abbrzkqi.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <01 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF TURKISH ACTION AGAINST US USE OF NATO
TAGS: MARR NATO TU
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
ANKARA
ATHENS
Type: TE

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDED FACILITIES IN TURKEY

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006